we.354: Rheingold's Final Prank: Dawn of the Sumser Era

we.354.10: johnr (jrsumser) Sat 19 Feb 94 11:16

re #8: You're right, Tom...I'm saving it for future use.

While Howard is leaving, it turns out that his office is right next to mine in our new building. He's committed to showing me the ropes that are not intuitively obvious. We're discussing a number of big projects that feature Howard in a central role, so while he's leaving the review, the Point is to spread his influence around the enterprise. He's free to spend more time dreaming even wilder pranks.

Our new quarters are finished so everyone is now under one roof. The current team is a passionate, committed bunch eager to change the world. Howard has set the stage for a major blossoming of the Point Foundation.

I'm very confident in the capacity of the Whole Earth Team to rally around the mission.

I will continue to press for and popularize the central principles that have made us an enduring feature of the national landscape:
The interconnectedness of all things
The importance of Tools without Politics
The Value of Significant Work to individuals and the larger culture
Hope instead of Fear
An eye on the fringe as a source of new ideas and technologies
First person experience as a generalizer
Eclectic coverage
Money as a measure, not an object
Practical Utopianism
Freedom from bureaucratic peer review
Democracy as a consequence of passion, commitment, responsibility and rigor, and,
The value of a good prank.

There is a wider audience to reach with our work. I plan to make access to the magazine easier for readers while broadening our audience and reputation. If I don't shock, enrage, entertain and engage, I'm not doing my job.

Howard deserves broad congratulations both for the years of fine work and

his subtle ability to persuade me to take this assignment.

Thanks Howard.